# REPUBLICAN ROMAN ARMY \200-104 BC



NICK SEKUNDA ANGUS McBRIDE

**EDITOR: LEE JOHNSON** 



### MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES

## REPUBLIC AN ROMAN ARMY 200-104 BC

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## **REPUBLICAN ROMAN ARMY 200-104 BC**

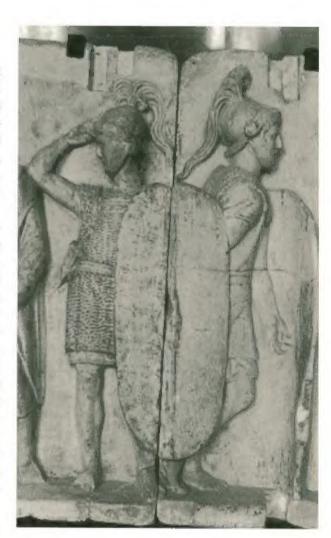
## INTRODUCTION

Researchers have directed most of their effort towards the Roman Army during the Imperial period. This is hardly surprising. The Roman Imperial Army is a unique phenomenon. It is difficult to think of any other state in any historical period which managed to maintain such a large, entirely professional army for such a long time. This fact alone dictates that the Imperial Army will continue to receive the attention it deserves.

Consequently the Imperial Army is well understood, but the same cannot be said of the Republican. The further one goes back in time. the less is known about the Roman Army. The military reforms carried out by Marius between 107 and 104 BC constitute a watershed in our knowledge. After this date we have sufficient literary and archaeological evidence to give us a reasonable outline (see Harmand). The legionary organisation which Marius' reforms crystallized is attested in numerous literary passages, while the archaeological monuments, beginning with the 'Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus', probably recording the census of Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus in 115 BC (Torelli 5-16), show us Republican legionaries at the end of the 2nd century almost universally equipped in mail.

Before this date the situation is far from clear. Elizabeth Rawson, a pre-eminent scholar of the Roman Republic, summarised the situation thus (13): 'The subject of the arms and organisation of the Roman army in and before the mid-second century BC is one of almost inextricable confusion.' Little has changed in the two decades or more since these words were written.

Few historians have dealt with the earlier army at all, and the only lengthy treatment of the subject is that of Eduard Meyer. Brief accounts of the pre-Marian army are also given by Parker (9-20) and Keppie (14-56), and a more extended treatment by Peter Conolly (86-207). No military



Legionaries from the Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus. (Photo: author)

archaeologist can fail, at this point, to mention the remarkable excavations made by Adolf Schulten of the Roman camps in the region of Numantia in the period 1903-12. A book of this size cannot throw light on all aspects of the Roman Republican Army, but it can at least provide an outline of the equipment and organization of the army in the 2nd century, a time when Rome was growing from a regional to a world power.

## INFANTRY EQUIPMENT

The principal source of information on both the equipment and the organization of the Roman Republican Army is the sixth book of the Histories of the Greek historian Polybius, written a little before 150 BC (Walbank, Commentary I, 636). Polybius was born about 200 BC, served as hipparchus of the Achaean League in 170/69, and wrote a book On Tactics. After Pydna, Polybius was among the 1,000 prominent Achaeans who were deported to Rome. There he became friends with Scipio Aemilianus, and accompanied him on his various travels, witnessing, among other things, the destruction of Carthage in 146. Polybius was, then, uniquely qualified to write on the subject of the Roman Army, and his descrip-



tion of Roman military equipment is probably based on his own experience and observation,

#### The Roman shield

Polybius (6. 23. 2-5) gives a complete account of the Roman shield. It had a curved surface approximately 75 cm wide and 1.4 m high, and a span of 10 cm. (Here Polybius probably means that the rim curved back a span from the front of the shield.)(Treloar). It was made of 'double planking'; presumably two layers of wooden ply glued together and then covered on the outer side first with canvas and then with leather. The rim had an iron trim on its upper and lower edges, protecting the shield against sword-blows from above and against the earth below. It also had an iron boss which would have turned aside the heaviest blows from missiles.

The ancient authorities inform us that the Roman shield was of Samnite (Athen, 6, 273 f) or Sabine (Plut, Vit. Rom, 21, 1) origin (cf. Eichberg 171-5). Perhaps large wooden shields of this type were ultimately of Celtic origin.

The Kasr el-Harit shield was found in the Egyptian Fayum by an English team of papyrologists in 1900. Its measurements correspond remarkably well to the dimensions given by Polybius. However, the shield has no iron rim of boss, and is oval rather than round in shape. It is covered in woollen felt on both sides, the inner lining overlapping the outer by 50-60 mm. The body of the shield is made up of three layers of thin wooden segments running in alternate directions, vertically and horizontally. The segments of the outside and inside of the shield, between 2! and 50 mm wide, run horizontally; the inner side of the shield comprising +0 segments. The middle laver comprises ten segments, 60-100 mm wide running vertically.

For the method of construction we may compare Varro (Ling. 5, 115), who tells us that the Latin word scutum is derived from sectura or 'cutting', because it is made of wood cut into small pieces. Whatever the truth of Varro's etymology

Senior officer, passibly a tribune, from the Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus, (photo: author) Right Cavalryman from the Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus. (photo: anthor) he confirms that the Roman shield was made from ply. Kimmig thought the Kasr el-Harit shield was probably made of birch wood. Pliny (NH 16, 209) tells us that the most suitable woods for making shields are those in which an incision causes the wood to draw together at once and close its own wound; these include vine, willow, lime, birch, elder and both kinds of poplar.

At the centre of the shield is a wooden 'barley-corn' boss, attached with iron nails, with a wooden *spina* running above and below to the rim. The remains of iron rings for attaching carrying-straps are also found on the inside of the shield. Peter Connolly produced a reconstruction of the Kasr el-Harit shield which weighed 10 kg. The shield was found among houses which all seemed to belong to the late Ptolemaic period, which led Kimmig, the original publisher, to suggest that the shield had belonged to a Celtic mercenary in Ptolemaic service. Later commentators have suggested that the shield is Roman. As the late Ptolemaic army adopted Roman military equipment, certainty in this matter is impossible.

Vegetius (2, 18) informs us that each cohort painted different signs on their shields, and each

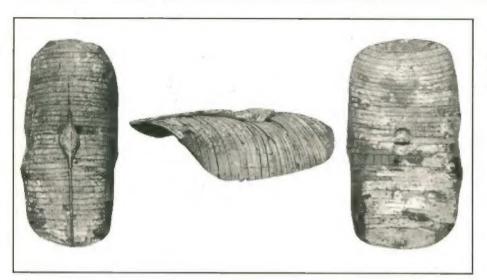




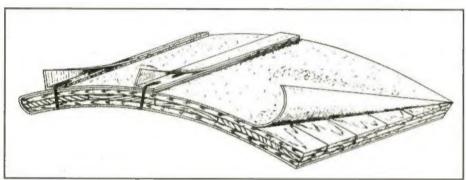
Above This sculpture, from the Basilica Aemilia in the Roman Forum, shows the legend of Tarpeia, who offered to betray Rome to the Sabines in return for 'what they more on their left arms'; meaning their gold ornaments. As they passed Tarpeia they killed her by throwing their shields upon her. The Basilica was first erected in 179, but mas reconstructed many times subsequently. which makes dating any individual sculpture most uncertain. Some authorities

(Bandinelli & Torelli fig. 49) would attribute this particular sculpture to the Sullan reconstruction phase of 87-78. The shield is decorated with a minged animal, possibly a feline, but more probably a horse. The 'Pegasus' is a common coin blazon of many Italian cities of the Republican period. Its significance is unknown but the sculptor evidently thought it a suitable device for a Subine. (Photo: Deutschen Archaologischen Instituts, Rome)

soldier wrote his name, his cohort and his century on the back. This may have been the practice in the Imperial period, but we have no unequivocal evidence that the different units of the Roman Army decorated their shields in any distinctive way in the Republican period. Livy (27, 47, 1) describes how in 207 BC, on the eve of the Battle of the Metaurus River, Hasdrubal observed among the enemy old shields which he had not seen before. The Roman Army had been reinforced by the Second Consular Army following a forced march. It seems that Hasdrubal can distinguish the 'new' old shields from the normal shields he was familiar with, and the natural way in which to



Photograph of the Kasr el-Harit shield, (left) outside a (centre) side and (right) inside, taken from the original publication. (Photo after Kimmig)



Cross-section showing the triple-ply construction.
Polybius probably examined a number of Roman shields, but only visually. This could be the reason why he states that the shield is constructed from 'double planking', rather than triple, (Drawing after Kimmig 108 fig. 1)

interpret this passage would be to assume that the 'new' old shields had different shield devices which Hasdrubal had not seen before. This is hardly, however, a passage on which to pin any conclusive argument.

Frontinus (Strat., 4, 1, 5) records that Scipio Africanus, upon taking over command of the Roman Army besieging Numantia in 134 BC, saw a soldier with an elegantly decorated shield. Scipio remarked that he didn't wonder that the soldier had decorated it with such care, since he obviously put more trust in it than in his sword. It is not immediately obvious whether this passage implies that each soldier decorated his own shield as he wished, or simply that the individual soldier was responsible for decorating his own shield in the pattern prescribed for his unit. Furthermore, the anecdote may not be genuinely recorded, for other versions of the story (eg. Livy, Per. 57) make the size of the shield the point of the story, not its decoration. Finally, Silius Italicus (17, 3958) gives Scipio a shield decorated with effigies of his father and uncle in battle

#### Helmets

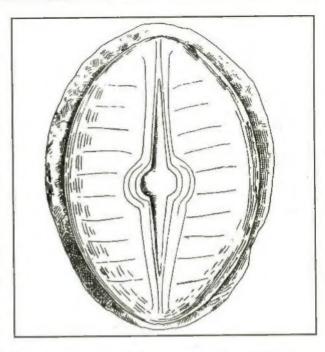
During the 2nd century soldiers of the Roman Army were obliged to supply their own equipment, or at least their arms were their own property. Consequently, we should not expect to find complete uniformity in dress or equipment. As the 2nd century progressed the demand for military equipment increased as a result of incessant war and an ever-increasing scale of mobilisation. At the end of the 2nd century Marius was recruiting volunteers from the lowest property classes into the legions, and these troops would have been unable to bring their own arms with them.

Most helmets surviving from the Republican period are of the 'Montefortino' type, named after the cemetery of Montefortino in Ancona, from which a large number were excavated. A number come from battle-sites in Greece (Calligas). Until the end of the 2nd century the bowls of the helmet were decorated and finished well, with the brim ending in a fine rope-work coil. Some 2ndcentury helmets are stamped with an armourer's mark countersunk into the bronze with a die, implying some form of mass-production even at this early date. There was, however, a marked deterioration towards the end of the century, as demand increased. Even so, helmets continued to be produced by hammering; spinning only seems to have come in during the early years of the Principate (Paddock).

The earlier examples of the Montefortino helmet come together into something of a point at the top. Varro (Ling. 5. 115) tells us that the type of helmet known as conus is so-called because it narrows (cogitur) towards the top. Thus the term conus may have been a specific word for the Montefortino type. The Greeks also used the word konos of a certain type of helmet; obviously a borrowing has taken place, though it is not clear which way round.

At the top of the bowl of the helmet was a crest-knob, filled with lead and then drilled with a hole in the middle for the insertion of a crest-pin. Thus the crest-pin was held firmly in an upright position (Russell Robinson 14). The crest consisted f. of what Polybius (6, 23, 12) calls a feathered 'wreath' or 'crown', with three straight crimson or black feathers stretching above, about a cubit (45 cm) in length. The latter must have been wingfeathers taken from some very large bird. Statius, - a poet of the Flavian period, describes some -; mythical Spartans wearing 'Ledaean' crests (i.e. of d swans' feathers). Virgil (Aen. 10, 185-193) also has s the Ligurian heroes Cunerus and Cupavo wear - crests of swans' feathers. (The swans of the river t Po were famous in antiquity.) The nature of the wreath or crown beneath the crest proper is not known. It may have resembled the white band es (infula) wound into the searlet crest of another n helmet (conus) described by Statius (Theb. 4, 218).

The Montefortino helmet has become the stanin dard helmet worn by all modern reconstructions or of the Roman soldier during the 2nd century BC. in However, it may not have been the only type of er helmet in use. The Italo-Corinthian and the Italotil Attic types had earlier been very popular too.



The ply construction of the shield is demonstrated by this funerary sculpture from Vetulonia, normally dated

to the early seventh century, (After Studi Etruschi 21 (1950-51) p. 28 fig. 3)

especially in regions to the south of Rome, such as Campania or Apulia. These may have continued in use into the 2nd century, though examples have not survived – perhaps due to the end of rich burials in this region. The Italo-Attic type had been especially popular among the Samnites, and did continue in use: it developed into the Imperial-Italic type, which emerged in the 1st century AD (Russell Robinson 62).

#### The cuirass

Polybius (6. 23. 14) informs us that those who were rated in the census-class above 10,000 drachmas wore a coat of mail armour (lorica hamata), which was of Gallic origin (Varro, Ling. 5. 116). A leather jerkin called the thoracomachus was probably worn under the mail shirt in this period, as in later periods (De Rebus Bellicis 15). A law passed during the first tribunate of C. Gracchus in 123 BC provided for the free distribution of arms to every single citizen-soldier in the army, at public expense (Gabba 6-7), and it seems reasonable to assume that all legionaries would be issued with mail cuirasses after that date.

Polybius, writing decades before the free distribution of arms was introduced, tells us (6, 23, 14) that the majority of the heavy infantry wore the kardiophylax, or 'heart-protector' (pectorale), a bronze sheet about 22.5 cm square placed in front of the chest and kept in place by leather thongs (Varro, Ling. 5, 116). Polybius is not, therefore, describing the 'Campanian' pectorale of triple disc shape, or the round pectorale worn by the mountain tribes of the central highlands, such as the Hernici, Aequi and Volsci (Connolly 101). Rather the shape had developed out of the square breast-plates worn by the Samnites (Connolly 110-111) and adopted after early military contacts with



them. In fact Pliny (HN 34, 43) does mention that following his defeat of the Samnites in 293 Spurius Carvilius made a statue of Jupite Capitolinus from their captured 'heart-protectors' greaves and helmets. No contemporary square pectivale has survived. It has been suggested that round bronze disc, 170 mm in diameter, recovere from Numantia, might be a pectorale (Bishop & Coulston 59). The pectorale may have disappeare from use soon after Polybius description, replaced by the mail shirt.

A third type of cuirass, the muscle-cuirass must also be considered. Though not mentioned by Polybius, a large number of examples have been recovered from graves in Campania and else where, and representations continue to show the muscle-cuirass in use into the 1st century BC. Of the infantrymen shown fighting on the Romat side on the Aemilius Paulus monument, two wear mail shirts, but three wear muscle-cuirasse (Kähler).

#### Greaves

Polybius (6, 23, 8) only mentions 'greave' in the singular, indicating that only one greave was worn. The wearing of the single greave may have been a native Italian practice. Livy (9, 40, 3) mentions that the Samnites wore a single greave or their left leg during a battle with the Romans ir 310 BC. Following the Samnite defeat, the Campanians equipped their gladiators in this ways and called them Samnites (9, 40, 17). In Rome Decimus Junius Brutus was the first Roman to give a gladiatorial exhibition in memory of his dead father, in 264 BC (Livy, Per. xvi); Subsequently a single greave on the left leg was regularly worn by that class of gladiator called 'Samnite' (Juvenal 6, 256-7; cf. Silus Italicus) Punica 8, 419; Virgil, Aen. 7, 685-690) Representations of the late Republican period showing armed men wearing a single greave on the left leg generally represent gladiators, and no unequivocal representations of soldiers wearing a

The mail cuirass was also ultimately of Celtic origin. This statuette of a Gaul, from Baratela, Este, shows a cuirass not fitted with shoulder-guards after the

Greek fashion. Rather, in the Celtic fashion, the mails falls over the shoulders in two flaps, secured by a clasp in front of the chest. (Drawing after Montelius)



single greave have survived. The Aemilius Paulus monument and later representations of Roman legionaries do not show any greaves being worn, so the single greave was possibly abandoned early in the 2nd century.

#### The pilum

Polybius (6, 23, 9-11) tells us that *pila* were constructed thus: a barbed iron head 1,35 m long was inserted for about half its length into a wooden haft of the same length and was riveted securely in place. The total length of the *pilum* was 1.8 m. Where it met the wooden haft the iron head was about 3.75 cm thick. Examples of such *pila* have been recovered from the Roman camps around Numantia (Bishop & Coulston 50), upon which source Peter Connolly (131) has based his reconstructions. The iron head of the javelin, designed for use against more distant targets, was attached to the haft by a socket.

The pilum was primarily thrown with the aim of killing the enemy, but if it didn't kill, it was designed to render the shields of the enemy unusable. A single pilum might pierce two separate shields and fix them together, or the iron of the extended socket might become so bent that it couldn't be plucked out of the shield (Caes., Bell.



Infantrymen from the Aemilius Paulus Monument. The Roman forces raised for the Third Macedonian War included 2,000 Ligarians (Livy 42. 35. 5-6). The two figures on the right, from a part of the frieze showing the start of the battle, wear musclecuirasses with large volledarer rims at the battom and

could represent the Ligarian infantry who were involved in the opening skirmish. The very large, almost hexagonal, shields could be the Ligarian shields specifically mentioned by Livy 44, 35.19. Note the dyll-hotes at the waist for the attachment of model swords in bronze. (Photos after Kähler, pls. 14, 6)

Gall. 1. 25. 3). Plutarch (Vit.Mar. 25. 1-2) describes the famous improvisation which Marius made to the pilum shortly before the Battle of Vercellae, against the Cimbri in 101 BC. Up to this time, Plutarch says, the iron head was fastened to the shaft with two iron rivets. Marius replaced one of these with a wooden peg. When the pilum struck the enemy's shield, the wooden peg sheared while the single iron peg stayed intact. The iron head stuck fast in the shield, while the wooden haft jack-knifed, swung downwards and dangled from the single iron peg, trailing along the ground at an angle.

#### The Spanish sword (gladius)

All heavy infantry carried a Spanish sword at the right hip. It was an excellent thrusting weapon, since the blade was very strong and firm, and



Left and right This terracotta from Cacre, probably the war god (Manle & Smith 5), may represent the appearance of an allied infantryman in the 2nd century. He is saluting with his right hand. Note the musclecurrass, swood lift and shield, and helmet with ruised cheek-pieces. (Photo & drawing: Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz Intiken - Sammlung)



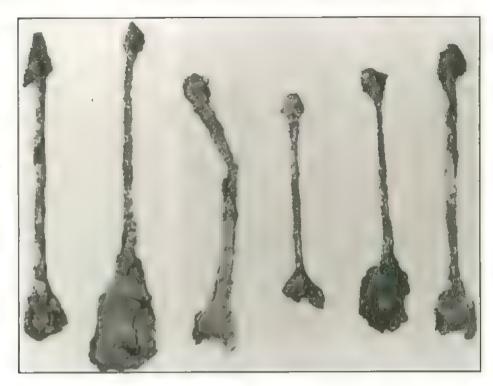
This bron's figurance in the Collection Great, shows bearded male, possible a soldier rather than gladiator, mearing cloak, the she Samnite timic will make belt, and a sing greave on the left left (Drawing afterochner, no. 163)

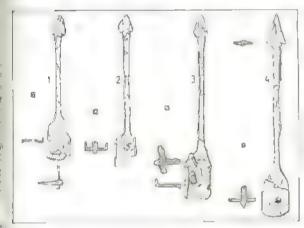
both its edges cut effectively (Polyb. 6, 23–6-7). The Spanish sword made a tremendous impact on the Macedonians. Livy (31, 34, 4) describes the dismay which swept through the Macedonian army when they saw what damage the Spanish sword had inflicted on the bodies of the dead during a skirmish in the early stages of the Second Macedonian War. In many it had severed limbs or decapitated the corpses. According to Polybius, the Spanish sword was adopted during the Second Punic War, but its adoption may have taken place earlier (Walbank, I 704, III 754).

A fragment from Poseidonius (Diodorus 5, 33,

3-4), who had travelled extensively in the wester Mediterranean, describes the weapons of the Celtiberians. They carried swords which we two-edged and wrought of excellent iron, and had aggers 22.5 cm long which they used when fighting at close quarters. He describes how they use to bury iron plates in the ground and wait till thrust had eaten away all the softest metal. The then worked the remaining, most unyielding, stemto excellent swords. The Roman military dagg (pugio), presumably also of Spanish origin, is no mentioned by Polybius, and may have only be adopted by the Romans in the later 2nd or except the 1st century (Bishop & Coulston 54-5)

Right and below. About 60 tron pilum heads have been recovered from Telamon, perhaps from a monument commemorating the victory against the Gauls in 225. The temple was built about 300 and was destroyed by Sulla's troops in 82 because Marins had landed there in 87, so they are certainly Republican in date. The preserved length varies from 18.8-35 cm. (Photo and drawing after vin Vacano (1988) abb. 5, tal. 11)





## ORGANIZATION OF THE LEGIONS

ePolyhius' description of the administration of the complete your party of the setting-out of the camp, the described from the point of view of the minimum tribunes. Consequently Rawson (15) has suggested that one of his literary sources consisted of some commentaria of military tribunes. These corobably took the form of records of, or directions for, a single event. Cato the Elder (234-149 BC)

wrote a work entitled *De Re Militari*. The surviving fragments take the form of a handbook of practical information concerning Roman military practices (Astin 184), similar in style to the *commentarii* used by Polybius. The date of its composition is unknown, though it is probable that all of Cato's written works were composed in his later years, thus at about the same time Polybius was writing book six. When Polybius comes to the levying of the cayalry he does so after dealing with the levying of the infantry, and he corrects himself to say that in reality the cayalry is now levied first, making it clear that his source is not absolutely contemporary. It is unlikely, however, that his account is very far out of date (Rawson 14-15)

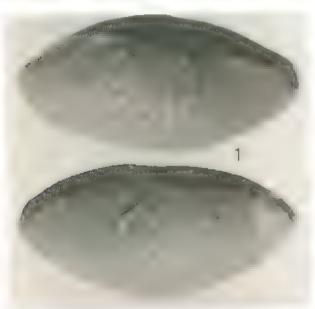
#### The levy

Service in the legions was the right and the duty of the adsidiu, the body of the citizenry owning property of at least 400 denaru in value and so able to support themselves financially (Keppie 33). A census was held every five years, in which the adsidut were registered in tribes and distributed into five classes according to wealth. The census concluded with a religious ceremony of purification, known as the 'lustration' (lustratio). The pro-

letarn, citizens whose property fell below the minimum levy for inclusion in the census classes, were not normally required to serve in the legions during this period, other than in times of direemergency. Roman males became eligible for military service during their 17th year (Gell., \ 1 10 28), and were only required to perform military service, as numores, until their 46th (Cie., de sen. 60). In times of emergency, such as the mobilisation of 171 BC for the Third Macedonian War, the oath could be administered to the sentures up to their 50th year (Livy 40, 26, 7; see Taylor 86). Normally citizens were required to perform six years of service continuously in the same legion, or sometimes in separate levies. They could serve as long as 16 years in the infantry or ten in the cavalry, and even longer as a volunteer. When an army was levied, the citizens would meet in a dilectus, or 'choosing', at which they were allocated to the various legions. Infantry were paid one third of a denarus daily, cavalry a full denarus, and from this deductions were made for food and equipment (Keppie 33-4).

#### The legion

The basic unit of the Roman Army was the legion. Legere means 'to gather together' and the word 'legion' means a force gathered together in the levy (Varro, Ling. 5, 87; cf. Plut., Lit. Rom. 13, 1). Under normal circumstances the army





4 Roman military road near Introch in northern Syria, The Roman military historian Boris Rankov is walking along it to demon-

strate that it was designed to be capable of accommodating a legionary contuburnium marching six abreast. (Photo: author)

numbered four urban legions (legiones urbanic Palyb. 6, 19, 7), two under the command of eact of the two consuls. The consular legions would normally be numbered I to IV. During the Secon Punic War there were upwards of 20 legions the field, and it may well have been during the period that the supplementary legions started be numbered on a regular basis.

Moulded slingbullets bearing the inscription L. XIII, standing for legio XIII, have been found in Spain, deposited by the Scipinus forces attacking the Carthaginian camp at Gandul during the final phases of the Second Punic II ar. They can probably be associated with the 13th

Legion which Livy (29, 2, 9) informs us was serving there in 205. On their reverse the bullets have the letter Q, and other bullets have the letter A in Etruscan cursive script, indicating the area of recruitment of their users (Photos: L. Villaronga)

Numbered legions are also mentioned participating in the Istrian expedition of the consul A. Manlius Vulso in 178 BC (Agnew).

Each legion had six tribunes attached to it (Polyb, 6, 19, 8-9). Service as a tribune brought great honour, and even ex-consuls would serve as

Third-century bronze statmette, height 7 cm, in the Vitta Ginlia, Rome, poswhly representing a voles. Note the covering to the head, the parma vehtures,

and the sword by his side (Drawing after Ausonia 2 (1967) 281 fig. 2, photo Supr. 4rch. Etimia Meridionale)

tribunes (Suolahti; Keppie 39). Normally the six tribunes divided themselves into three pairs, each pair taking it in turns to command the legion for two months (Polyb. 6, 34, 3). (The pair may have taken it in turns to command the legion on alternate days (Walbank II 583-4).) In the Imperial period the legion was commanded by a *legatus*. Polybius does not refer to military *legati*: they became increasingly common as the 2nd century drew on, though still not as legionary commanders (Rawson 19; cf. Keppie 40).



#### The cohort

The legion had a strength of 4,200 infantry (Polyb. 6, 20, 8). Later on it was divided into ten cohorts, each numbering 420. Polybius describes the way in which the officers of the legion were selected. This need not imply that the cohort didn't exist as a factical sub-division of the legion, for Polybius, reflecting the interests of his source, doesn't explicitly describe the organization of the legion rather he is concerned with the duties of the tribunes, such as the way in which the military oath is administered

Livy (22, 38, 2) tells us that the military oath was first administered to the army by the tribunes in 216 BC, on the eve of the Battle of Cannae. Previously there had only been a general oath to assemble upon the orders of the consuls, and an oath taken by the centuries of infantry and decurses of cavalry not to leave the ranks. Rawson (17) has noted that if Livy is correct upon this matter, a terminus ante quem of 216 BC is supplied for the literary sources of Polybius. In all likelihood his sources will, in fact, be considerably later than that date.



Yome gladiators on foot used the parma velitaris too. This count figurine is the Louvre, from Sinymo, shows an ape equipped mos a 'popanium' parma instaing such gladiators, (Photo: author)

Many types of hastae men in use during the Republican period. This relief (Diebner Is. 21), daing to the first years of the lst century, shows a group of Roman marines equippe with shields and

Montefortino helmets 11., peculiar shape of the speacheads may be distinctive of the hasta navalis. (Photo Deutschen Archäologische Instituti, Rome)





The meaning of the Latin word cohors is uncertain (Keppie 235 n. 7). While dealing with the deteat of Hasdrubal, son of Gisco, by Publius Scipio, in 206, Polybius describes a combined arms column in which three that of cavalry precede 'the usual number' of velites (presumably the equivalent of three maniples), and three spenal of infantry. He then digresses that the Romans use the word 'cohort' for this formation (syntagma) of infantry. It has been suggested that Polybius is describing an ad have formation, which only became regularized by the Reforms of Marius (Keppie 67-8)

From time to time a number of cohorts could be grouped together for a specific tactical task, in a which case they might be put under the charge of one of the tribunes. The first mention of a cohort Romana comes in 212 BC (Livy 25, 39, 1; Front 2, 6, 2), and Bell (415) has suggested that the telder Scipios introduced it. Whatever its origins, if the cohort does not seem to go far back into the 3rd century, and it has been suggested that in the early stages of its development the cohort con-

Branze figurine from Ielamon, height 11.2 cm, usually dated to 250-150 and frequently stated to represent a Gaul at the Battle of Telamon in 225 (cf. Manle & Smith 47 n. 97). Fon Facano (1985, 140-142) has pointed out that the figure lacks the

torques worn by Gauls and that the helmet is not Celtic. The two (sie) greaves and the timic indicate that the figure represents a Roman soldier, possibly one of the hustati (Photo: Museo Archaeologico, Florence; drawing after von Facano)

sisted of three maniples of any of the *ordines*, i.e., three maniples of *hastati* or of *principes*, as well as the later pattern of one maniple from each of the three *ordines* (Rawson 19 n. 20)

#### The maniple

Each cohort consisted of one maniple of triarn, numbering 60 men, one of principes, numbering 120, one of hastati, also numbering 120, plus 120 velites. The maniple is generally called a sémana, though in one passage Polybius (6, 24, 8) uses the terms semana and sperra indiscriminately to describe the maniple. The Latin term manipulus is clearly derived from manus (hand) which led to some rather fanciful etymological derivations in

the ancient sources. Thus Plutarch (11t. Rom 8 6) tells us that Romulus divided his forces into companies of 100 men, each led by a man carrying a standard consisting of a handful of grass and wood tied to a pole. In fact the word 'hand' has an early history as a term for a military subdivision and Herodotus uses the Greek word chen



(hand) of a body of troops on a number of occsions (5, 72; 7, 20; cf. 7, 157). In the main, Polybuseems to use the word *sperra* specifically to translate 'cohort', but sometimes he seems to use to term in place of *ordo*; that is, the line of hattle of *hastati, principes* or *truaru* (Walbank II 302).

It has frequently been suggested that the magiple was discontinued following the Maria reforms, but in fact it seems that it continued we into the Imperial period (Speidel 10). Additionally (N I 16, 4, 6) preserves a passage draw from book six of the De Re Militari of L. Cinciu a grammarian and antiquary active in the midd of the 1st century BC, describing the army after the Marian reforms, which mentions that in legion there are 60 centuries, 30 maniples and to cohorts.

#### The century

Each maniple was divided into two centuries, ca commanded by a centurion. In battle the two co turies of the maniple would be drawn up side side, the one on the right commanded by t senior centurion of the two (centurio prior) and t one on the left by the jumor (centurio posterio When the officers of the legion were bei selected, all the centuriones priores were select first, and all centurions holding this designati were superior in rank to every centurio posteri The first centumon to be selected was the sen centurion of the legion, and he commanded t first century of the first mample of the triaru later periods he was known as the primus pe prior, though it is not known how far back t title went. Livy mentions the rank anachronist ally in a number of references stretching back r archaic times, though his reference (42, 34, 11) Spurius Ligustinus holding the rank shortly at 191 BC may be genuine.

The centuries of hastate and principes each nubered 60 men, and there is some evidence to in

Bronze figurine, probably Roman and, to judge by the 'designer stubble' beard, dating to the middle of the 1st century. Head, right arm and shoulder are pushed through the right arm hole to allow maximum freedom of movement. Atthough all meapons are broken away it probably represents a soldier; perhaps one of the antesignani. (Photo: Louvre)



Third-century bronze statute, height 9 cm, in the 1 dla Gadia, Rome. The dating is supported by the simple weal shape of the dield. It could represent a princeps or a triarius, as with used the fighting-spear it this date. Note the

Montefortino helmet and smord fastened on the right-hand side. The figure wears a simple tunic mithout mail entrass or pectorale. (Drawing after Jusonia 2 (1907) p. 282 fig. 3, photo Sopr. Arch. Etruria Meridionale)

cate that each century was further divided into contubernia, or 'tent-parties' of six men each (Wheeler 312). Excavations of the Roman camp at Nobilior in Spain suggest that the centuries encamped in ten contuburnia, and this evidence is supported by Josephus (BJ 3, 124; 5, 48), who informs us that in the 1st century AD the Roman legion marched six abreast; presumably the legion is marching by contuburnium abreast.

#### The principales

The common soldiers of the century were known as gregarii. Each century had attached to it a number of staff, known as principales, who generally did not fight in the ranks of the century when it was drawn up for battle, but who were probably still counted as belonging to the manipulares. Polybius (6, 24, 2; cf. Festus s.v. Optio) tells us that each centurion appointed an optio. In the Imperial period the optio carried a large staff with which to beat men back into the ranks. He probably stood behind the century on the left-hand side



(Speidel 24-5). Livy (8, 8, 18) mentions each centurion choosing a *subcenturio* during the Latin War (340-338 BC). He may be alluding to an early equivalent of the *optio*, or to a previous method of selecting the *centurio* posterior of the maniple

Polybius also tells us (6, 24, 6) that the centurions chose two standard-bearers for each speira (here presumably with the meaning 'maniple'). Polybius has probably made a mistake. Varro (Law, 5, 88; cf. Lucan 1, 296) tells us that in his time (he composed the De Lingua Latina in 47.5 BC) the maniple was the smallest sub-unit in the legion to have its own standard, and this was presumably also the case earlier on in the 2nd century. Perhaps Polybius' source stated that the senior centurion of the maniple chose a standardbearer, but Polybius has misinterpreted the text to imply that both centurions in the maniple chose a standard-bearer. Each maniple would be drawn up in line with the standard. The standard-bearers would, therefore, be responsible for ensuring that the standards, and therefore the maniples, of each ordo (battle-line) were drawn up in line (Speidel 21)

The centuries of the Imperial legion also had another supernumerary officer called a *tesserarms*. He was responsible for passing on the watchword of the day, which was written on a small tablet (*tessera*) from which he derived his name. He was



also responsible for selecting small sentry picker and fatigue parties (Webster 117). Polybius (6 & 7 sq.) describes the way in which the watchwo was circulated throughout the army, from the terof the tribune, via the tenth maniple of each typof infantry, and so up through each maniple at back to the tribune's tent again. The man wowas selected for this duty attended the tribune tent each sunset (6, 34-8). Presumably Polybius describing a permanent appointment; in what case the rank of tesserarius existed as early as it 2nd century BC.

The Imperial century also had a custos armorm who was in charge of the weapons and equipmen and who may also have been included among t principales (Breeze 267), though there is no en dence for the existence of this rank during the Republican period. This 'quartermaster-sergear or 'staff-sergeant' may well have been terme hyperetes in Greek, but the rank is not alluded in this form in any of the Greek sources deals with the army, Polybius (11, 22, 4) mentions th Publius Scipio, as soon as it was light, sent a me sage to the tribunes by his hyperetat. The hyperetar would seem to be the beneficiarit, wh served as orderlies to the senior officers of a legion in Imperial times (Webster 118), Vegetti (2, 7) also mentions various types of trumper among the supernumeraries of the century of the Imperial army, and it is probable that the Republic maniple would have had its trumpeter too.

## **TACTICS**

Manipular tactics are described by Livy (8, 8-13). The maniples would normally be drawn up three lines: triarn at the back; principes in the midle; and hastati at the front. This formation we known as the triplex acres, a term mentioned Caesar (Bell, Civ. 1, 41, 2; Bell, Gall, 1, 24.

Scaling taken from Roman Republican gem from Barcelona (Intike Gemmen in Deutschen Sammlungen 1, 2 no. 1670), showing a Roman horseman riding down an infantryman, probably Roman, either a veles, or perhaps an antesignamus, equipped with the lighter equipment sometimes given to these troops when aperating with catalry. (Photo: Munche Stantliche Muncsumm-lungen)

Bell, Afr. 60. 3). At Pharsalus, Caesar (Bell, Crv. 3, 89-3) took cohorts out of his third line and constructed a fourth as a protection against the superior Pompeian cavalry. Crassus is mentioned as adopting a dupley acres in Aquitania (Bell, Gall, 3-24, 1), and Caesar once had to draw up his army in simpley acres on account of the small number of troops available to him (Bell, 4fr. 13, 2).

The maniples were not drawn up fighting shoulder to shoulder', but each maniple was borgered on either side by a space equal to that occupied by the maniple itself. The line of principes was staggered; their maniples were drawn up otherd the spaces separating the maniples of the hasiati, while the maniples of the triarii at the wek were drawn up in line with the hastatt. Spaces were also left between the three ordines. This 'chequerboard' formation, called guincing by modern scholars, was the normal formation dopted by the maniples. At the Battle of Cannae, Lowiver, Varro abandoned the normal manipular is o nation, instead the maniples were drawn up in s much closer order, and the battle-line as a whole was drawn up much more deeply than usual le (Poyb. 3, 113, 3; cf. Livy 22, 47, 5). Nevertheless. the gumenny formation, or variations on it, remained standard



Pergamene terracotta reprewesting a tray of temple ouf ings. Bossed temple wkes (popana) are shown, ogether with a pigeon, or

some game hird. We might call Roman cavalry shields of this shape the 'populain' type. (Photo after Toppermien no. 598)



The 'popanum' shield seems to have staged a 'comeback' in the later years of the Republic. This Augustan funerary monument of an Italian settled in Thessalonike (Inscriptiones Graveae N. 2, 1–378) shows

a howenan diess I in a tunic and fringed cloak. His horse is shown in a 'mindom' at top right, and a memle, either his child or a slave, holds his cavalry parma for him. (Photo: author)

Each soldier occupied a space six feet square (Polyb. 18, 30, 8), allowing him to throw his pila and then wield his sword. We are not sure precisely how the ranks and files of the century were drawn up. Since the contuburation numbered six men many modern scholars have suggested that the maniples of the hastati and principes were deployed 20 men wide and six deep, the truit 20 wide and three deep (cf. Wheeler 305 n. 9). Each maniple would therefore have a frontage of 40 yards, and the legion 800 yards, allowing for the intervals in the quincunx formation. As the 2nd century progressed, the strength of the legion, and therefore of the individual maniples and centuries in it, gradually increased. The hastati were the



In 362 a chasm opened up m the Roman Forum. To expiate this exil portent Maccus Curtius rode into the gulf fully armed (Livy 7, 6, 3). This relief depicting the exent, an Imperial

copy of a Republican original, is in the Pulazzo dei Conservatori. Note the 'popanum' shield decorated with a gorgoneion. (Photo Dentschen, Vechaologische Institut, Rome)

first, expanded to 200 per maniple, but the other nedines gradually followed. We may assume that the strength of the contuburnta, and thus the depth of each of the three ranks, rose accordingly. Thus, at Pharsalus, Pompey, whose legions each numbered 6,000, drew up his army in tripley acres, with each rank ten men deep (Frontin., Strat. 2, 3, 22)

The greatest exponent of manipular tactics during this period was Scipio Africanus. At the Battle of the Great Plains in Africa in 203 BC, Scipio drew up his army in the normal way (Polyb. 14 8, 5), placing his maniples of hastati in Iront, behind them the principes, and at the back the triaru. Having engaged the enemy to the front with his hastati, Scipio redeployed the principes and triaru and attacked the Celtiberians in flank. Scipio thus 'prepares the way for the use of the reserve, as it is now understood' (Scullard 212). The next year, at the Battle of Zama, this time fighting Hannibal himself, Scipio suspected that the

Carthaginians were going to use their elephants charge the legions in the centre of the Rom battle-line, so he drew up his army in a differevariation of the gumeuny, described by Polyh-(15, 9, 7-9). In the front, the maniples of the # tatt were drawn up with the usual gaps betwaeach maniple. The ranks (ordines here Polyhuses speiral) of the maniples of the principes a triarit, however, were not staggered behind that Instead they were drawn up in line with the maiple in front. The normal spaces were also l between the three ardines. He filled the interv between the front maniples of hastatt with t spetral of velites. These harassed the elephants, b then withdrew through the passages opened to I rear, or through the gaps between the thr ordines. Instead of disrupting the Roman form tion, the Carthaginian elephants passed harmless through the gaps between the Roman maniples

In general, however, the manipular battle was corporal's battle'. Once the manipular lines have been drawn up, there was little chance for transfer to intervene. Great reliance was placed the initiative of junior commanders to exert locontrol on the battlefield. At the Battle of Pydra Pelignian officer, one Salvius, distraught by

inability of his troops to penetrate the Macedonian phalanx, snatched their standard and hurled it into the enemy ranks, encouraging his men to attack with redoubled fury rather than abandon their standard (Plut., 1 it. Jem. Paul. 20). Hence the unior commanders, and especially the centurions - men with long years of continuous military expenence - were considered to be the backbone of the army. One such individual was Spurius Jagastinus, whose military curriculum vitue is outfined by Livy (42-34). He first served in 200 BC, and was promoted to centurion during the war against Philip of Macedon. He subsequently volsteered to serve in Spain as a private soldier, and was promoted to the rank of centurio prior of the first manuple of hastatt. In subsequent campaigns he was appointed centurion prior of the first maniple of principes, and then was appointed primus polas four times in the space of a few years. By 171 BC, over 50 years old by then, he had served 22 years, had been awarded for bravery 34 times and had received six civic crowns.

#### The velites

Battle commenced with the 120 velites of the cohort, drawn from the youngest and poorest troops (6, 21, 7), skirmishing in front of the 'chequerboard' formation. The role of the vehtes was to drive any enemy light-infantry from the battlefield, and then to attempt to disrupt the enemy battle-line. Prior to combat the velites would be stationed within the intervals between the maninles of the hastati. In 216 BC, at the Ebro, the Romans drew up their forces against Hasdrubal in triplex acres, with part of the velites stationed among the antesignam and part behind the standards (Livy 23, 29, 3). As light infantry, the velites were frequently singled out for special duties Livy (26, 4, 4) describes how some young vehites were picked out from all the legions on account of their swiftness of foot. On this occasion the vehice rode into battle mounted on the hindquarters of the cavalry's horses. When they came into contact with the enemy cavalry, they would leap down



h Denarms struck by C

It Servinus commentorating
some military exploit by
ane of his ancestores. The
"C'Greek' cavalry shield with
by its umbo and spine has
replaced the 'popanum'
U shield, (Photo: author)

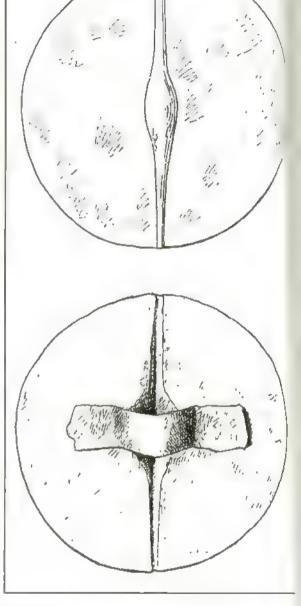


The shield-blazon on the shield of the previous figure is repeated as a com-device on this sermineia (worth a twenty-fourth of an as) struck in Republican Rome It may thus have some significance beyond being merely the initial letter of Servitus' ancestor Marcins (After Haeberlin pl. 40, 27)

Right The handle arrangement at the back of the Greek' type of Roman cavalry shield is unknown, but it may perhaps be reflected in this brouze votive miniature from Telamon (Drawing after Milani 132 fig. 15)

nimbly and fight on foot. This description from Livy has been held to indicate that the velites were created in 211, but it merely refers to the first time the velites were mounted. Roman light-armed troops had earlier been called rurarn, but during the 2nd century the term velites came into general use. The word velites occurs for the first time during Livy's account of the defeat of Regulus in 255 BC (1, 33–9; cf. 2, 30, 1, 6)

Each veles carried a sword, javelins, and a round shield or parma three feet in diameter Varro (Lang. 5, 115) tells us that the parma was so-called because from the centre it was even (par) in all directions. The javelin measured about 90-120 cm, with a 22.5 cm head, and was 2.5 cm thick. Examples of light javelin heads of this type have also been recovered from the Roman camps around Numantia (Connolly 131) Each man carried either seven (Livy 26, 4, 4) or five (Lucilius 7, 22) javelins. Livy (38, 21, 13) adds that, if compelled to fight hand-to-hand, the velite would



transfer his javelins to his left hand and draw h Spanish sword

Polybius doesn't tell us that the 120 velouattached to each cohort were organised into the own maniple. Rather he says that they were dotributed equally among the meré (6, 25, 3). He previously used the term meros for the legion, by then uses it of the maniple. He then goes on the say (6, 24, 5) that they call each meros (i.e. subdivision?), tagma (legion?), sperra (cohort) and

semara (maniple). I don't understand what Posbjus means. Most scholars have suggested that the velites were distributed among the other manufes in equal proportion (Connolly 129-130; kennie 35 'for administrative purposes'). Certainly Live (8-8, 5) has the light-infantry distributed among the maniples when he describes the organization of the army during the Latin War (340-138). In combat, however, the velites would have nothing to do with the other maniples, for they opened battle by harassing the enemy, and then withdrew through the line of battle to form up once again, normally, behind the triarii. At the Battle of Ilipa, fought against the Carthaginians in Spain, in 206, Publius Scipio withdrew his velites through the intervals between his maniples but then redeployed them on the wings (Polyb. 11-22) 101

#### The hastati

When they had done what they could, the velites would withdraw through the gaps between the rearward maniples and leave the battlefield to the hastati. The hastati would throw their two pila, draw their swords, and then charge the enemy (cf. Caes., Bell, Gall, 1, 25, 2). The hastati were drawn from conscripts who were younger, and so presumably also poorer, than the principes or triarii (6.21.7) and may, therefore, have been less heavly armoured than the other two ordines. This seems to be reflected in the different factical roles sometimes given to the hastati. At the Battle of Zoma, following the defeat of the second rank of the Carthaginian army, when Scipio wished to reform the line to attack the third rank, the hastati had to be recalled by trumpet as they were still pursuing the enemy (Polyb. 15, 14, 3).

The name hastati has caused some difficulties, for it literally means 'the hasta-men'. According to

In the late 13th century Maurice of Nassau guempted to recreate the Roman legionary from the descriptions of Livy and Polybius. The smord and larget man carried a much larger shield than the smord and lockler man, and lought with a closed helmet and single greave on the leading left leg. (Photo:

Mars his fedd or The Exercise of Arms (1625), second part entitled The Perfect Manner of Handling the Sword and Target Set forth in lively figures with the words of Command and Breit Instructions correspondent to every Posture British Library)

Polybius, however, they carried pila, and only the rear-rank men of the triarii carried hastae. Furthermore, troops fighting in the front rank might be thought of as being the last troops to be equipped with long spears rather than javelins. Consequently a number of complicated theories have been developed by modern scholars to explain this paradox. One would have the ordines of the legion originally fighting in a different order, with the hastati at the back. These theories are unnecessary, however, for, as Rawson (26) has pointed out, the earliest use of the word hasta, by Ennius (239-169) in his Innales (Skutch 446 frg.





266), describes a throwing spear. Early Latin terms for throwing spears were not, it seems, clearly differentiated. Consequently Rawson has suggested that in the early 3rd century only the hastati of the first line were armed with throwing-spears—called hastae vehtures—while the two back lines were armed with the long spears that were later called hastae longue. This suggestion is seemingly confirmed by Dionysius of Halicarnassus (20, 11, 2), who informs us that during the Pyrrhic War, probably the Battle of Beneventum in 275, those troops whom the Romans call principes fought in close order with 'cavalry spears' held in both hands. And



Reliefs from Dyrchachron in Hlyria. The gladuator on the right adopts the 'gladuator stance', the leading log thrust forward under the shield. The one on the left langes forward with a rather dramatic smord-thrust: fighting left-hunded, like the Emperor Commodus (Dio Cuss. 72, 19), he is protected from

head to tue by his enclosed helmet, scutum and single greave. Note also the squar pectorale decorated with a gorgoneion, the subligace lum (linn-cloth) with its armoured belt extended in protect the grow, the gamulet (maniea) and thong bindings on the arm ( the Henzey & Dannet 383, p

Plutarch's account of the Battle of Asculum in 278 (1 tt. Pprth. 21, 6), presumably drawn from a contemporary source, has the Romans fighting with swords against the surisai of the Epirote phalanx It seems, then, that the front ranks of the Roman Army were already using the pilum and sword as early as 279. Polybius (1, 40, 12) also mentions javelins, presumably pila, in use at the Battle of Panormus in 250.













Normally there were 1,200 hastati per legion Polyb 6, 21, 9), but according to Lavy (33, 1, 2), Flaminius had 2,000 hastati in his legions in 197; thus 200 in each maniple rather than the normal 120 Flaminius' legions would therefore have had a total strength of 5,000 infantry. Flaminius used his hastati, travelling rapidly under cover, to trighten the ambassadors of the Boeotian League come over to the Roman side. This was, again, a tactical situation suitable for less heavily armoured troops.

#### The antesignani

Liv (22-5, 7) mentions that at the Battle of Lake Irasimene, in their confusion the Romans no breer fought in their lines of principes, hastati and mary, nor did the ranks of the antesignam fight in front of the standards, with the rest brought up behind their standards; nor did they fight in their egion, cohort or maniple. We may conclude that the maniples of the hastati, fighting in front of the gion, were drawn up in front of their standards, smie the maniples of the principes and triarii were arawn up behind their standards. For this reason, the hastati (and, presumably, the velites when they sere still attached to the legionary cohorts) were also known as antesignam. Lavy could be using the term untestenant anachronistically during his description of the Battle of Lake Frasimene, but the term seemingly goes back at least till 86 BC, for at the Battle of Chaironeia, Sulla deployed his army in tripley acres, leaving intervals through which to advance or withdraw his cavalry and light troops. The postsignam, who were in the second me, then fixed a line of stakes into the ground, and the line of antesignani were withdrawn through these stakes (Frontinus, Strat. 2, 3, 17).

After the Marian reforms, the hastati, though mostly fighting as regular infantry within the ranks, continued to play a specialist role as light nantry when the battlefield situation demanded. To some degree the absence of any light infantry within the legion in the post-Marian army (vehics were no longer included in the legionary organization) placed increased burdens upon the hastati. This speculation can be supported by four passages illustrating Caesar's factical improvisations during the civil war.



Relief from the Torre de San Magin, from the oldest stretch of city wall of Tarragona in Spain, probably 'Scipionic', erected by the Roman army during the last years of the 3rd century BC. The publisher

(Grunhagen) explained the wolf-head badge on the umbo of the legionary shield held by Mineria as a native Spanish blazon of the god of war. (Photo: Deutschen Archadogische Instituts, Madrid)

At the Battle of Herda in 49, Caesar (BC 1, 43) ordered antesignani to run out and capture an eminence of factical importance on the plain in front of the town. We can assume that the antesignam were normally drawn up in the front ranks of the legion: the usual position of the hastati in fact. This initial skirmish was unsuccessful: more than 600 were wounded and 70 died, including Q. I ulginius, a centurion of the hastati of the first cohort of the XIV Legion. Somewhat later in the campaign Caesar (BC 1.57) detached 'the strongest men drawn from all the legions, antesignam and centurions' and gave them to Brutus to man a fleet against the Massilians.

The next year, in an engagement during the Dyrrachium campaign, 400 antesignam fought with great success mixed up with the cavalry (BC 3.75).

After Caesar's move into Thessaly, in view of the fact that his cavalry was far inferior to Pompey's, Caesar reinforced it with lightlyequipped young men drawn from the antesignam with arms selected for swiftness (BC 3, 84). Caesar had first developed these tactics fighting against the Germans under Ariovistus. He tells us (Bell. Gall. 1, 48) that the Germans trained infantrymen, as swift as they were brave, to fight with the cavalry, holding on to the manes of the horses. They would gather round any cavalryman who had been wounded, and could form a base upon which the horsemen could retire.

Putting this information together, it seems that during the civil wars, the antesignam 'troops who fight before the standards' were drawn from the younger men of the hastati. The two



terms seemingly became interchangeable. The antesignani were frequently given lighter equipment than the rest of the legionaries, in order to carry out their task. The growth in the use of hastati as light infantry presumably coincided with the demise of the velites as an integral component of the legionary cohort.

In 107 the Roman general Marius had found himself unable to take the treasury of King Jugurtha, situated on top of a rocky hill not far from the River Muluccha, A Ligurian auxiliary found a path to the top of the rock while out gathering snails. Marius gave him five of the most agile of his trumpeters and buglers and four centurions, presumably along with their centuries. We are told (Sall, Ing. 94, 1) that the soldiers bared their heads and feet so as to be able to see better and climb more easily. They carried their swords and their shields on their backs, but took Numidian hide shields instead of their legionary ones, for they were lighter and made less noise when struck. These men were probably antesignam, and the passage illustrates how normal legionary equipment could be modified or abandoned according to the tactical demands of a situation.

The antesignans continued into the Imperial period. Inscriptions record that sets of equipment were held in store for them (Speidel 14) However, what these sets consisted of is not specified in any detail. According to Vegetius (2. 16), the antesignam used smaller or lighter armour than the other legionaries. Thus it seems that in the 2nd century BC the hastati would frequently wear less body-armour than the other ranks of the legion. Perhaps many wore no cuirass at all. Scipio led his legions out of camp on the five-day march preceding the Battle of the Great Plains in 203 'entirely in light order'. Polybius (14, 8, 1) might mean that Scipio ordered his legionaries to leave all their heavy baggage in camp, but more probably that they left some of their armour behind and wore a 'slimmed down' version of the legionary panoply.

The wolf-head badge is also found in early Italian iconographic sources. Here it appears as a shield-bluzon on an Etriscan olpe in

the Villa Giulia Museum dating to the first half of the 6th century. (Photo: Sopr. Arch. Etruria Meridionale)



This statue probably represents the usurper L. Domitius Alexander dressed as the Roman god Silvanus with the lion skin of Hercules. Though dating to irea 4D 310 it may demonstrate the original

style of wearing an animal pelt over clothing adopted in early Rome: that is with both sets of paws thed at hip as well as at shoulder, a feature adopted in Plate D. (After von Heintze pl. 136)

#### The principes

If the hastate were unable to achieve victory, they would withdraw through the gaps in the maniples and re-form behind the triarii. The principes, in turn, would now throw their pair of pila (6, 23, 8), draw their swords, and charge the enemy. The 1,200 principes (6, 21, 9) were formed from men in the prime of life (6, 21, 7) with sufficient funds to themselves with body-armour. Consequently the order of the principes and hastati was sometimes reversed, presumably to avoid casualties among the lighter-armed hastatt. In 181, during a campaign against the Ligurians, Lucius Aemilius placed the principes in the first line with the hastati in the second (Livy 40, 27, 6). As mentioned above, the principes still carried the hasta longa during the Pyrrhic Wars. At some point in the middle of the 3rd century they exchanged their hastae for pila

#### The triarii

If the principes withdrew, the fighting came to the last line. The 600 triaru were composed of the oldest men (6, 21, 7, 9). Presumably the triarii were sufficiently wealthy to provide themselves with the mail cuirass. Under normal circumstances the triarii were kept in reserve, even if all other elements of the legion were engaged in an all-out attack. Livy (34, 15, 6) mentions how Cato led the principes and hastati of the second legion in an attack on the left gate of Emporiae in 195. While the hastati and principes were fighting, the triarn would sit, or rather kneel, beneath their standards, with the left leg bent forward, their shields leaning against their shoulders, and their spears thrust forward at an oblique angle (Livy 8) 8. 10; Varro, Ling. 5, 89). If formed up in quincunx, there would be gaps left in the last line. Livy (8, 8, 12) describes a manoeuvre in which the triarii would rise from the kneeling position, extend the frontage of each maniple so as to close the gaps in the line, and finally charge the enemy.

The *triarn* are first mentioned at the Battle of Cape Ecnomus in 256, which was fought between four legions manning the Roman fleet and the Carthaginians (Walbank, *Classical Review* 64 (1950) 10-11). The *triarn* were sometimes also

termed pilani (Speidel 21); thus the senior centurion of the legion was called the primus pilus Varro (Ling. 5, 89) incorrectly equates pilani with pilum, and speculates that the triarn had first used the pilum, and only later adopted the hasta as their principal weapon, Rather pilani seems derived from pila, a 'pillar' or 'column'; the pilani were troops stationed at the back of the column. When Polybius wrote (6, 23, 16), the trurn earried a single fighting-spear (hasta longa) rather than a pair of pila. Polybius (2, 33, 4) tells us that when the Roman Army contested the invasion of the Insubres in 223, the tribunes distributed the has tae of the triarii among the front ranks of the has tati. The intention was that their Celtic adversaries would blunt and bend their swords. slashing through the lines of spears in front of the Roman ranks, before coming to grips with the Romans in hand-to-hand fighting. As the 2nd century progressed the triarit gradually exchanged their hastae for pila

During the Third Macedonian War (171-168 BC) the strength of the legion frequently rose to 6,000 or 6,200. This implies that, as the strength

This denarius, struck in Marseilles by C. Valerius Flaccus while Proconsul in Gaul in 82 (Keppi. 67), shows the legionary eagle standard introduced by Marius, flanked by standards marked P for the principes and H for the hastati. (Photo: Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris) of Flamininus' legions rose to 5,000 when the mamples of the hastati were expanded to 200, the maniples of the principes and/or triarii were expanded later. The strengths of the various ardiges in a 6,200-strong legion can only be guessed, but if we deduct 1,200 for the veluo, then the ten maniples of hastati and principo might have numbered 200 each, and the ten maniples of triarti could have numbered 100 Presumably the frontage of 20 was retained for all the maniples; otherwise the quincum formation would not have fitted together, and so the maniples of 200 men would have a depth of ten ranks

# **OTHER ARMS**

## Cavalry

The equites, or 'knights', formed the highest echelon of Roman society. Known as equites equo publico, their numbers stood at 1,800 and their horses were supplied and maintained by the state. An eques might lose his status at an inspection (recognitio) through unworthy conduct, because his horse was inadequately cared for, or if found physically unfit for cavalry service. The status of eques equo publico became increasingly honorific.

Three hundred eavairy were assigned to each







Static from Herculaneum of the National Museum, Naples, showing a member of the Balbus family mearing the military dress of a proconsul or practice. Though Augustan, the

statue probably represents the dress of a military commander of the later Republican period reasonably accurately. (Photo: Deutsches Archaologisches Instatuts, Rome) legion (Polyb. 6, 20-9) - a total of 1,200 horsemen. If more than four legions were raised, their numbers could be supplemented by citizens supplying their own horses: equites equit suis merentes or equites equit privata. The organization and

equipment of the legionary cavalry is described in Polybius 6, 25. The cavalry was divided into ten ilai (turmae) of 30 men, each containing three decuriones, one decurio commanding the turma as a whole. The decuriones themselves each appointed an optio, though later on the tribunes appointed the optiones themselves (Varro, Ling. 5, 91). Presumably the turma was drawn up in three ranks of ten, each rank having its decurio on the right and its optio on the left.

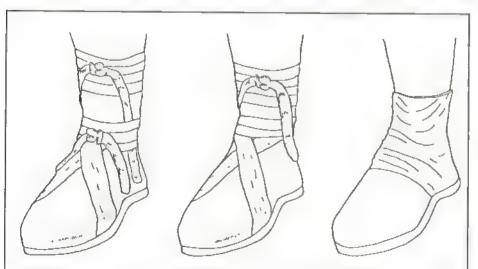
Polybius tells us that the Roman cavalry had once been lightly equipped, but were now more heavily armed and wore cuirasses. They had substituted their native weapons for ones borrowed from the Greeks. Their spears had been too slender and pliant to allow them to aim an accurate blow: they had tended to vibrate, and they broke too easily. When they did break, since the spears had no butt-spikes, they couldn't aim a second blow. Consequently the cavalry were now using Greek cavalry-spears.

The shield they had formerly made use of, Polybius (6, 25, 7) tells us, was made of ox-hide, and was similar in shape to the popanum, 'the round, bossed cake used in sacrifices'. They were not firm enough to be used effectively in the attack, and once wet, their leather covering tended to peel off. Consequently the Romans started to copy Greek cavalry shields. Polybius probably has in mind the large, round cavalry shields with a central boss and a spine reinforcing the shield. Indeed one can see Roman cavalry using Greek

shields of this type on coins of Republican date but they never supplanted the traditional 'popanum' shield entirely, for these too continue to be shown on coins of Augustus and on funerary monuments of the same date (cf. Bishop & Coulston, frontispiece).

## Allied contingents

The Roman Army increasingly relied on allied contingents for its cavalry and light infantry. Each Roman army was usually accompanied by an equanumber of allied infantry, but by three times as many cavalry (Polyb. 6, 26, 7). The consuls would appoint 12 prefects to command the allies (pracfecti sociorum), and of the six appointed to each consular army, three would fight on each wing commanding the allied contingents (cf. Polyb. 6 34. 3). Many of these allied cohorts may have been equipped in the same way as the Roman legionary cohorts, banded together into tens in an ala sociorum, the equivalent of a legion, each commanded by one of the six praefecti sucturum appointed by the consuls (Keppie 22). The presse details varied from campaign to campaign. For example, in the mobilization of 171 for the war against Perseus (Livy 42, 35, 4-6) the four urban legions were mobilized and the practor Gaus Sulpicius Galba chose four military tribunes from the senate as their commanders. As these legions were divided between two consular armies, only two fought at Pydna. The 'Allies of Latin Name' supplied 15,000 infantry and 1,200 cavalry, while



Three types of Roman hood denoting social rank in the Imperial period. Left, the calcous patricius, worn only by patricians; centre, the calceus senatorius, worn only by members of Senate; right, the calceus equester, restricted to members of the Equestrian Order. (Drawing after Goette 451 fig. 35b)



Bronze figurine of a Roman hetor, Augustan in date, in the British Museum. Note the bound fasces, the equestrian boots, and the full toga worn in times of peace. (Photo: author)

the Ligurians supplied 2,000 infantry. The Cretans and \umdians also supplied troops, and elephants were attached to the army.

Units of allied light infantry were organized into cohorts along Roman lines. Pompey had two cohorts of 600 slingers in Greece (Caesar, Bell. Civ. 3. 4. 3). Cohorts of allied light infantry increasingly supplemented or replaced the legionary velites in the later 2nd century. As the size of armies increased, so did the demand for citizen manpower. It is generally accepted that the Roman military machine was beginning to run out of available manpower by the end of the 2nd century, though this view has been challenged (Evans 20, Rich). It became increasingly difficult to find sufficient citizen manpower from the adsidui alone to fill the three ordines. Indeed, in 107 Marius was forced to extend recruitment to the proletarn. The probable result of all this was that fewer and fewer citizens were available to serve as velites.

There was probably a second, tactical, reason for the demise of the velites. The conquest of the western Mediterranean, and particularly of Spain, involved the Romans in irregular combat with various tribal enemies, who could field formidably efficient light infantry. Against these troops the velites were often ineffective, and demand increased for more efficient missile troops with better weapons who could keep the enemy at a distance (Bell 419).

In 133 at Numantia, Scipio Aemilianus deployed archers and slingers interspersed not only with his cohorts, but even with his centuries (Front. 4. 7. 27). These troops may have been the archers and slingers brought over by Jugurtha with 12 elephants in the winter of 134 (Bell 419 n. 106).

In 109 Metellus adopted a similar expedient at the Battle of Muthul during the Jugurthine War, dispersing archers and slingers between the maniples of his line (Sallust, BJ 49. 6). Bell (416) noted that two of the *legati* of Metellus, Marius and P. Rutılius Rufus, had served under Scipio in the Numantine War, and it is probable that these two individuals were instrumental in spreading the new tactical ideas

The practice of interspersing missile troops among the legionary cohorts continued into the 1st century. During his campaign against the Parthians, Antony arranged for his javelinmen and slingers to sally out through the lines of his legionaries (Plut., Vit. 4nt. 41. 4-5). Light-armed troops could also be dispersed among the cavalry (Caes., Bell. Afr. 60).

The traditional view is that the legions were deprived of their velites by the Marian reforms Bell (421-2) has pointed out that although vehits had wholly disappeared by the time of Caesar, the term does occur sporadically in sources from the earlier part of the 1st century. For example, Frontinus (Strat. 2. 3, 17), in describing Sulla's dispositions at Orchomenos, mentions how the velites and light-armed troops discharged their javelins at the oncoming Pontic chariotry, Bell suggests that Lucullus, who made little use of light troops, may have been more responsible than anyone else for the demise of the legionary velues Perhaps, though, we should not assume that our sources are using the term velites in the restricted meaning of legionary velites, but rather to describe allied cohorts equipped in the same way as the legionary velues.

Sallust (BJ 105. 2) describes how Marius sent Sulla to meet the Mauritanean King Bocchus with a guard of horsemen, Balearic slingers, archers, and a cohort of Paelignians 'cum velitaribus armis'. Thus the term may have lingered on after the disestablishment of the legionary velites. In the groundplan of Camp III at Reneiblas near Numantia in Spain (Keppie 46-7), which is thought to have been constructed by Q. Fulvius Nobilior in 153/2, there is no room for any velues in the accepted reconstruction.

# THE ROMAN LEGION IN BATTLE

The Roman Republican army was principally an infantry army. Roman commanders were, however, keenly aware of the value of cavalry. In 184 Cato held the office of censor at Rome, together with one Valerius, and attempted to rid the equites of all unfit to serve; presumably to restore the mili-

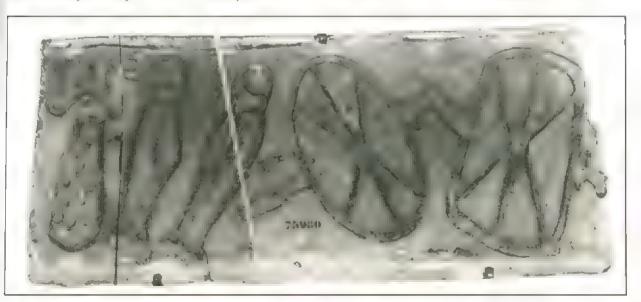
try utility of the institution. It was probably at his time too that Cato attempted to persuade the senate to raise the size of the equites from 1,800 to 1,200 (Astin 81-2). Cato's efforts seem to have been unsuccessful, for the last references to Roman Republican citizen cavalry (for which I mank B Rankov) concern the Battle of Vercellae in 102, when the younger M. Aemilius Scaurus atreated from before the Cimbri whilst serving as in eques (Valerius Maximus 5, 8, 4; Frontinus, Strat. 4, 1, 13). Subsequently the Republican Army semingly relied exclusively on allied cavalry.

Campania was particularly important for both acruits and remounts. Following the Battle of Cannac, the Romans were concerned to retain control of Campania, capable of supplying 4,000 cavalry (Livy 23, 5, 15). Lucilius, who served in the cavalry under Scipio during the Numantine war in 134/3, mentions Campanian horses in a ragmentary passage drawn from his Sattres (506-

Rome frequently enjoyed a considerable superiarity in cavalry during her battles with Macedonian and Greek armies, and this was a principal factor in her victories. Under Philip and Mexander, the Macedonian state had been capable if raising large numbers of cavalry, principally necause of the 'Companion' system, dehberately supported by land-grants and by other devices, which extended the potential pool of propertied horse-owning cavalry recruits. Subsequent social change in Macedonia, coupled with lack of state finances, served to diminish the numbers of cavalry available for recruitment by the state. During their wars with the Romans, the Macedonians were rarely able to raise more than a few hundred horsemen. Consequently the Macedonians came to rely more and more on their phalany to achieve victory, but they rarely had sufficient cavalry available to secure its flanks.

We may compare the success of the Roman swordsmen against the phalanx to the success of the Biscavan sword-and-buckler men in Spanish service over the Swiss pikemen of Louis XII at the Battle of Cerignola in 1503, Contemporary military pundits, however, while directly comparing the sword-and-buckler men to the Roman legionaries and advocating their use, recognised that in the open field they could not stand against cavalry. Had the Macedonians of the 2nd century possessed an effective eavalry arm to protect the flanks of their phalanx and to attack the legions, the battles of the Macedonian Wars may have turned out very differently. Thus, at the Battle of Magnesia, Antiochus the Great managed to break through the lines of the left-hand Roman legion with his cavalry agenta and cataphracts (Bar-Kochya 170; ef. Briscoe 355)

Levracotta saveophagus, dated to the first quarter of the 1st century (Lacano 1960) showing a club, greaves, and shields decorated with geometric shielddevices (Photo: Musco Treheologica, Florence)



Another significant factor in Rome's victories was the brutality of her soldiery. This feature might be explained as arising from the constant wars in which Rome became involved during this period, but these wars only served to exacerbate an already deeply rooted predisposition towards violence. The institutionalization of violence, even in the gladiatorial pastimes of Roman society, fostered a thirst for violence in all forms of social activity, and more particularly a lust for war. Brutality and massacre were hallmarks of Roman methods of warfare, and the capture of a Greek city was normally followed by mass rape and massacre from which even the dogs were not spared (Harris 51-3, 263-4). The prospect of rape, violence and plunder in a foreign country have always been potent weapons in the armoury of the recruiting sergeant. In the militarized society of Republican Rome the blandishments of sex and violence abroad helped greatly in diverting the attention of the poor from the appalling social injustices of the Roman political system. Thus love of violence was not simply an unsavoury excrescence of the Roman social system, it was the gel which held it together. This brutality tended to paralyze the capacity of Rome's enemies to resist her effectively.

Perhaps the most important factor in Roman success was, however, her superiority in manpower. When Hannibal invaded Italy with less than 20,000 men, Polybius (2. 24. 16) tells us that the Romans and their allies were capable of mustering, at least on paper, 700,000 foot and 70,000 horse (cf. Brunt). It was Rome's capability to mobilize such huge armies which defeated Macedon, rather than any innate superiority of the Roman military system. No matter how many armies the incompetence of Roman military commanders might lose, there was always a near-inexhaustible reservoir of manpower to draw on. The first years of the Third Macedonian War saw many Roman reverses, but these didn't matter; all that mattered was the last battle.

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Limestone base from an honorific monument erected for Sextus Appuleius, consul in 29 (Dichner Is, 28). Note the 1st century infantry shield, dateable by its 'excised' top and bottom,

decorated with a geometric pattern, and a 'popunum' shield decorated with a lion's head. (Photo: Deutschen Archaologische Instatuts, Rome)

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# THE PLATES

A: Roman legionaries, Spain, Second Punic War Roman legionaries in Spain during the closing stages of the Second Punic War. The oblong shield shown on the sculpture of Minerva from Tarragona has been used for the hastatus (A1) and the triarius (A2). The head of a she-wolf shown in the relief may be a Roman legionary blazon. The hastatus wears a pecturale, decorated with stylised musculature as was the earlier practice, while the triarius wears a mail cuirass, here secured at the chest with a clasp, in the Celtic fashion, rather than by shoulder guards. The single greaves worn by both figures are based on the figurine once in the Collection Gréau. Polybius (6, 22) informs us that the velites (A3) wore 'a simple helmet', which

they sometimes covered with the skin of a wolf or some other animal. He does not tell us the *velites* wore a complete wolf skin. The 'simple' helmet worn by A2 is of the Italo-Corinthian type. The javelins follow the reconstructions of Connolly (131), which are based on surviving 2nd-century examples.

We have no information on the appearance of the Spanish sword, scabbard or sword-belt, nor of the style of boot worn by Roman legionaries during this period, so relevant details in the reconstructions throughout this book are speculative. Tunics of a natural off-white colour, as worn during the Imperial period (Fuentes), have been restored.

B: Cavalry, Thessaly, Second Macedonian War Two cavalrymen on reconnaisance in Thessaly during the Second Macedonian War, gathering information from a veles. B1, based on the Curtius relief, carries a shield of the 'popanum' variety. B2, based on the Servilius coin, carries a 'Greek' shield with a central spine. Both figures wear the cavalry cloak (sagum), which is known to have been a heavy cloak of very dark, practically black colour; presumably made of extremely dark brown natural wool, and often worn as mourning dress (Wilson 105). Plutarch (Vit. Crass. 23. 1) tells us that Crassus put on a black cloak instead of his general's red cloak on the eve of the Battle of Carrhae in 53; this act was interpreted as a bad omen by the troops. Presumably Crassus had put on the cloak he had worn previously as a cavalry officer.

The tunics have been restored as bleached white, with a narrow purple stripe running down from both shoulders to the hem—a distinction which seems to have been limited to the equites during the Republican period. All other colours in the plate are arbitrary. B2 wears boots of the style which later became standard dress for the equestrian order, while B1 wears boots related to the later type which denoted members of the senator-

Opposite Detail of a 1st century Etruscan cinerary urn from Volterra (Bandinelli fig. 372). Note the boots, precursors to the later 'senatorial' type, and the ornamental spearhead: both most probably insigma of rank. (Photo: Museo Guarnacci)



ial order. The horse furniture is decorated with silver *phalerae*, which Livy (22, 52, 5) mentions being captured in large numbers by Hannibal after the Battle of Cannae.

B3 uses the same equipment as A3. The custom of wearing the mask of an animal over the helmet was seemingly derived from hunting practice, for Grattius (Cynegeticon 340) mentions hunters' caps made from badger. Thus the mask of a badger has been restored. The shield design is based on a sculpture from the Basilica Aemilia (Kranzle p. 120), but the colours used are arbitrary.

C: Roman Infantry, the Battle of Pydna, 170BC Roman infantrymen, based on the Aemilius Paulus Monument at Delphi, versus the Macedonian Chalcaspides regiment at the Battle of Pydna. Greaves have been entirely abandoned. Some figures wear the familiar mail cuirass, but others wear the Italian muscle-cuirass, which can be recognized by its lack of shoulder-guards. C1 has been restored with a helmet of Italo-Corinthian type, possibly suggested by one damaged head on the monument, while C2 has been restored with the more familiar Montefortino type.

D: Standard Bearers of the four Urban Legions Pliny (HN 10, 5, 16) tells us that Marius gave the Roman legions their eagle standards during his second consulship in 104. Prior to that the eagle had been their first badge along with four others: the wolf, the minotaur, the horse and the boar, which went before the different ranks (ordines). It is possible to suppose Pliny is referring to the ordines of the triary, principes, and hastati, but four standards does not divide easily into three ordines. Thus it seems preferable to assume that the four additional legionary badges mentioned by Pliny belonged to the original four urban legions. D1-D4 show the standard bearers of the four urban legions standing in front of the walls of an Italian sanctuary precinct. Over their mail cuirasses they wear bearskins, and at their belts they suspend parmae which are similar to those used by the velites, D5 shows a standard-bearer of a maniple of hastati, consequently he is not wearing body armour

### E: A General in Wartime

E1, based on the statue of Balbus, represents a mounted general of senatorial rank, During this period consuls would frequently command armies. In peacetime consuls would wear a white toga and tunic decorated with purple stripes and white boots (Lydus, de magistr. 1. 32, 1); in times of war the toga was laid aside for the military cloak (paludamentum). Pliny (HN 22. 3. 3) mentions that the scarlet dye of the 'coccum' was reserved to colour the paludamenta of generals. This is confirmed by Silrus Italicus (4. 518, 17.395-8), who mentions Roman generals dressed in scarlet with scarlet cloaks, although other sources mention purple (Caes., Bell. Afr. 57; Appian, Pun. 66) or crimson (Plut., Vit. Crass. 23. 1) cloaks. Literary sources mention consuls and other senators wearing the 'senatorial' or 'patrician' boot coloured either black or scarlet, while further texts mention the black thongs which bound the boot up (Talbert 219). We may presume that the boot itself was scarlet, but with black. The sole of the boot has been restored as black thongs. His horse has scarlet horse furniture decorated with gold phalerae, which were insignia normally awarded only to mil itary commanders, including consuls (Bloch p. 108).

E2: Before the general marches one of his 12 lictors. The fastes were a bundle of rods and an axe, symbolizing the magistrate's ability to inflict either corporal or capital punishment, bound together with a red band (Lydus, De magistr. 1. 32. 4). Various sources mention lictors laying aside their short togas (Cic., In Pis. 55) for paludamenta in times of war (Livy 41. 10. 5, 45. 39. 11; Varro, Ling. 7, 37), while others mention lictors dressed in red (Silius Italicus 9, 419, cf. Appian, Pun. 66). White paludamenta wrapped round the waist over red tunics have been restored following a polychrome frieze (Pensabene), as have the ivory crescents worn on the boot as a badge of rank. Also shown are the general's scribes, based on a relief from Gamlitz (Alfoldy pl. 20). As non-military personnel they don't wear their tunics girt high up above the knees, ready for action. For the tent, see C. van Driel-Murray.

## F: Combat

Roman antesignani (F1, 3) in combat with cavalry

of the Achaean League (F2). The antesignani are equipped with small swords and shields in place of their full legionary equipment. They attack both riders and steeds, striking up at the bellies of the horses and at the legs of the riders. The Achaean cavalry are based on a statue of Polybius and a polychrome terracotta from Corinth.

G: The Army towards the end of the period Based on the 'Altar of Domitius Ahenobarbus', representing the Army towards the end of this

period. G1 represents a Roman senior officer, His tunic is bleached, for Tacitus (Hist. 2. 89) tells us that the tribunes and senior centurions of Vitellius' army wore bleached garments (candida veste) during their entry into Rome in AD 69. He wears a bronze muscle-cuirass, helmet and greaves, but the colours of all other details, including the white leather groin-flaps outlined in red, are arbitrary. A decorative head has been restored to his spear, of the type used as badges of rank during the Imperial period. The helmet type

'Boeotian' type with cheek-pieces. G2 wears the sagum and white purple-striped tunic of an eques. Equestrian boots have also been restored to this figure. His helmet, of 'Bocotian' type, has a yellow plume. Arrian (Ars Tactica 34.4) mentions Roman cavalry wearing yellow plumes

is unclear from the relief, but it could be of

some 250 years later, but we have no idea when this became standard practice. A gold finger-ring was the sign of an eques in the late Republic (Bloch 107).

G3 and G4: In accordance with the Kasr el-Harit shield, the rim, spine and boss of the shield are left felt without metal reinforcement. One figure only, it seems, wears a version of the 'Montefortino' helmet, which must by now have become standard, thus the helmets worn by the other figures may be due to artistic licence.

H: The Army during the Jugarthine War

Centurion of a cohort of Sabine auxiliary infantry, perhaps during the Jugurthine War. Some Sabine communities may not have received Roman citizenship, and thus continued to supply allied contingents until the early 1st century (Sherwin-White 206-7). As a centurion he wears a bleached white tunic and a distinctive red crest. H2 shows a legionary carrying a shield decorated with a geometric pattern. Such patterns, probably based on Gallic prototypes, are shown on a number of archaeological monuments of the period. The rest of the equipment he uses is derived from the Domitius Ahenobarbus altar. H3 shows a cavalry officer. The shield is based on that shown on

Notes sur les planches en coleur

Al : Le turban écarlate et les lettres '4LD' en eujvre étaient les seuls éléments distinctifs des uniformes des trompettes par rapport à ceux des simples soldats de cette unité. Notez la salopette longue boutonnée sur la hanche. A2 : Les rapports et livres de compte de l'époque suggérent cet uniforme, avec une veste d'écurie blanche, coupée court et aux parements bleus. A3 : Le coupe changeait selon les modes et il y avait des variations dans la teinte des parements bleus mais le même uniforme de base est resté utilisé de 1779 à 1783. A4 ; L'uniforme régle-

B1 : Les détails intéressants de ce costume sont tirés de numéros de 1780 et 1781 du journal de Philadelphie, Freeman's Journal & Weekly Advertiser. Le 'watchcoat' rouge, un manteau utilisé par les sentinelles forcées de monter la garde pendant les nuits froides, est particulièrement intéressant. B2 : La source utilisée pour cet officier ingénieur est un portait du Chevalier de Cambray-Digny par Charles Willson Peale. B3 : Ce conducteur de chariot, décrit dans le journal Pennsylvania Packet, porte pratiquement des vêtements civils.

mentaire des Dragons Légers Continentaux fut adopté fin 1781.

C1 : Ce soldat démontre des influences espagnoles dans le col de son manteau court et porte un chapeau, un mousquet et une cartouchière espagnols. La France n'était pas la seule source pour les agents d'approvisionnement américains. C2 : Intéressant uniforme de 'frontière' porté par cette compagnie d'état. Notez le calot, les mocassins et les jambières. C3 : Les archives d'état décrivent ce costume, fourni à la milice d'infanterie de Caroline du Nord, lors de leur recrutement, C4 : Uniforme enregistré pour Giles's Troop de la cavalene de milice de Caroline du Sud.

the Sextus Appuleius monument, though the

colours are hypothetical.

D1 : Ce membre de la fanfare a reçu un manteau intercepté qui devait servir à un sergent de l'armée britannique. Ces manteaux rouges correspondaient à la mode contemporaine qui voulait que les musiciens portent un manteau de couleurs 'inversées', par exemple dans le cas de l'infanterie américaine, des manteaux rouges aux parements bleus. D2 : Les galons et épaulettes sont les caracteristiques notables de cet uniforme. D3 : A partir d'un portrait contemporain de Thomas Forrest par C.W. Peale.

E1 : Ce soldat de Géorgie porte, au lieu du manteau conventionnel, un 'gilet à manches' et noter le 'kilt' par dessus la salopette, vestige du costume de travail des paysans et des marins européens que les rangers ont porté sur la frontière américaine pendant la guerre franco-indienne et la guerre révolutionnaire. E2 : Notez les pans de manteau courts et le chapeau 'en éventail'. E3 : Tiré de documents ayant survéeu et d'une miniature représentant le Brigadier Général 'Mad' Anthony Wayne, le commandant distingué des troupes légères. E4 : Tiré de documents

privés et d'état ayant survéeu. Notez l'utilisation inhabituelle de deux couleurs de parements sur les revers, le col et les épaulettes.

F1: L'uniforme de cette légion de volontaires sur l'établissement Continental vient en partie d'un portrait contemporain du célèbre Light Horse Harry' Lee de Virginie, père du Général Confédéré de la Guerre civile, Robert E. Lee. F2: Notez le casque français, l'épée et la ceinture portés dans cette légion, commandée par le colonel français Armand, dont le portrait a survéeu. F3: Les livres de comptes contemporains et autres documents prouvent l'existence de cet uniforme. Remarquez la 'veste de marin' verte. F4: Un des cinq régiments à pied 'supplémentaires' habillés de divers uniformes qui ont été fusionnés dans la ligne Continentale en 1779-81.

G1: En 1782, les troupes du New Hampshire, qui avaient bien besoin de se faire ravitailler, furent les premières à recevoir une partie des grands stocks d'uniformes britanniques capturés sur les mers. Les manteaux rouges étaient teints en marron. Les étoiles blanches sur la poitrine étaient une affectation ajoutée après l'émission. G2: Les compagnies d'infanterie légère fournies par chaque régiment pour former, à diverses périodes, un Corps Léger qui comportait jusqu'à 12 bataillons étaient considérées comme des appelés temporaires et n'avaient donc pas droit à un uniforme distinctif, mais leur commandant Anthony Wayne autorisa un calot d'infanterie légère caractéristique avec un cimier en crin. La ceinture et le porte-épée identificnt le rang du sergent. G3: Couleurs renversées typiques et décoration supplémentaire d'un uniforme de tambour. G4: Un autre exemple d'un manteau rouge britannique capturé teint en marron avant d'être fourni aux troupes américaines.

H1: Notez les 'manchettes de dragons' sur le manteau et le fait que la baïonnette est fixée en permanence car on ne distribuait pas de portebaïonnette. H2: Notez le manteau, les chaussures indiennes, le calot en cuir et l'étendard du régiment. H3: Encore une fois, notez le calot spécial avec un badge en forme d'ancre et une frange blanche. H4: La salopette est en 'ticken' rayé (comme c'était souvent le cas), tissu bon marché utilisé par exemple pour couvrir les matelas. Notez le chevron blanc qui indique trois ans de service et institué en juillet 1782.

#### Farbtafeln

A1: Die Uniformen der Trompeter unterschieden sich lediglich durch den scharlachroten Turban und die Messingaufschrift "4LD" von denen der Soldaten dieser Einheit. Man beachte den langen Overall, der bis zur Hüfte geknöpft ist. A2: Diese Uniform beruht auf Angaben in Offiziers- und Buchführungsunterlugen der damaligen Zeit und weist eine kurzgeschnittene, weiße Reiterjacke mit blauen Aufschlägen auf. A3: Obgleich sich der Schnitt mit der Mode änderte und der blaue Farbton der Aufschläge ab und zu Änderungen unterlag, trug man von 1779 bis 1783 die gleiche Grunduniform. A4: Die vorschriftsmäßige Uniform für die "Continental Light Dragoons", wie sie Ende 1781 eingeführt wurde.

B1: Die interessanten Details dieser Uniform berühen auf Ausgaben der in Philadelphia erscheinenden Zeitung "Freeman's Journal & Weekly Advertiser" des Jahres 1780 beziehungsweise 1781. Der rote "Wachmantel" – ein Mantel, der an wachhabende Soldaten ausgegeben wurde, die in kalten Nachten Dienst taten – verdient besondere Erwähnung. B2: Die Quelle für die Abbildung dieses technischen Offiziers ist ein Porträt des Chevalier de Cambray-Digny von Charles Willson Peale. B3: Wie in der Zeitung "Pennsylvania Packet" beschrieben, trägt dieser Wagenfahrer praktisch Zivilkleidung.

C1: Bei diesem Soldaten sieht man den spanischen Einfluß am Kragen seiner kurzen Jacke. Außerdem hat er eine spanische Kopfbedeckung, Muskete und Munitionsetui. Frankreich war nicht die einzige ausländische Bezugsquelle für amerikanische Versorgungsagenten. C2:

Interessante "Frontier" Uniform, wie sie von dieser Staatskompanie getragen wurde – man beachte die Mütze, die Mokassins und die Leggings. C3: Diese Uniform, die an die Miliz-Infanterie in North Carolina bei der Anwerbung ausgegeben wurde, ist im Staatsarchiv beschrieben. C4: Akten weisen diese Uniform für die Giles's Troop der Miliz-Kavallerie von South Carolina auf.

D1: Dieses Mitglied der Militärkapelle erhielt einen beschlagnahmten Rock, der ursprünglich für einen britischen Armeefeldwebel vorgesehen war; diese roten Waffenröcke entsprechen der gängigen Mode, nach der die Musiker Jacken mit "umgekehrten" Farben trugen, d.b. im Fall der amerikanischen Infanterie rote Jacken mit blauen Aufschlägen. D2: Bei dieser Uniform sind besonders die Ecken und die Schulterklappen von Interesse, D3: Diese Abbildung beruht auf einem zeitgenossischen Porträt von C.W. Peale, das Thomas Forrest zeigt.

E1: Dieser Soldat aus Georgia trägt anstelle des herkömmlichen Mintels eine "Weste mit Ärmeln", man beachte auch den "Kilt" über dem Overall, ein Überrest des Arbeitsanzugs für europäische Bauern und Matrosen, den man bei den Rangern an der amerikanischen Grenze im Französisch-Indianischen Krieg und im Revolutionskrieg sah. E2: Man beachte, wie kurz die Rockschoße sind, und den "Fächerschwanz"-Hut. E3: Die Abbildung beruht auf überlieferten Aufzeichnungen und einem Miniatur-Porträt des Brigadegenerals "Mad" Anthony Wayne, dem renommierten Kommandeur der leichten Truppen. E4: Diese Abbildung beruht auf überlieferten Staats- und Privatunterlagen; man beachte die ungewöhnliche Verwendung von zwei unterschiedlichen Farben bei den Verblendungen am Revers sowie den Kragen und die Schulterklappen.

FI: Die Uniform dieser freiwilligen Legion bei den Kontinentaltruppen beruht teilweise auf einem zeitgenössischen Porträt des berühmten "Light Horse Harry" Lee aus Virginia, dem Vater des Generals der Konföderierten Robert E. Lee im Sezessionskrieg. F2: Man beachte den französischen Helm, das Schwert und die Gürtel dieser Legion, die vom französischen Colonel Armand angeführt wurde, dessen Porträt erhalten ist. F3: Buchführungsunterlagen und andere Aufzeichnungen aus der damaligen Zeit belegen diese Aufmachung; man beachte die grüne "Matrosenjacke". F4: Eines der filmf "zusätzlichen" Fußregimenter mit unterschiedlichen Uniformen, die 1779-81 mit der Kontinental-Linie fusionierten.

G1: 1782 erhielten die New Hampshire-Truppen, bei denen die Versorgungslage besonders schlecht war, als erste Uniformen aus einem größeren britischen Bestand, der auf See beschlagnahmt worden war; die roten Jacken wurden braun eingefärbt. Bei den weißen Sternen auf der Brust handelt es sich um eine nachträgliche Verzierung. G2: Die leichten Infanterie-Kompanien, die von den einzelnen Regimentern gestellt wurden und von Zeit zu Zeit ein leichtes Korps mit bis zu 12 Bataillonen bildeten, wurden als zeitweilige Soldaten betrachtet und erhielten daher keine charakteristische Uniform. Doch ihr Kommandeur Anthony Wayne genehmigte typische leichte Infanterie-Mützen mit Roßhaarbüschen. Die Schärpe und der Schwertgürtel bezeichnen den Rang eines Feldwebels. G3: Die typischerweise umgekehrten Farben und zusätzliche Verzierungen auf der Uniform eines Trommlers. G4: Ein weiteres Beispiel einer beschlagnahmten britischen roten Jacke, die vor der Ausgabe an die amerikanischen Truppen braun eingefärbt wurde.

H1: Man beachte die "Dragonermanschetten" an der Jacke; außerdem sollte der Umstand erwähnt werden, daß das Bajonett stets an der Waffe befestigt getragen wurde, da kein Bajonettgurt ausgegeben wurde. H2: Man beachte den Mantel, das indische Schuhwerk, die Ledermütze und die Regimentsstandarte. H3: Man beachte wiederum die besondere Mütze mit dem Ankerzeichen und den weißen Fransen. H4: Der Overall war – wie oft – aus gestreiftem "Drillich", einem gängigen und preiswerten Material, aus dem man z.B. Matratzenbezüge machte. Man beachte den weißen Winkel, der eine dreijährige Dienstzeit bezeichnet und im Juli 1782 eingeführt wurde.

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Avec annotations en français sur les planches en couleur. Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln.

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